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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/882,786	06/15/2001	Gabriel L. Romero	1003-0559	9984

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EXAMINER

ODA, CHRISTINE K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2858

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DATE MAILED: 08/21/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/882,786

Applicant(s)

Romero et al

Examiner

Christine K. Oda

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 1-20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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Part III. ELECTION/RESTRICTION**ELECTION OF SPECIES**

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

5 Species IA: Fig. 6

 Species IB: Fig. 7

 Species IA: Fig. 8

 Species IB: Fig. 9

2. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect a single disclosed species for
10 prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is
 finally held to be allowable. Currently, Claims 1-6 and 11-16 are generic.

3. Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must **include an
identification of the species that is elected** consonant with this requirement, **and a
listing of all claims readable thereon**, including any claims subsequently added. An
15 argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered
 nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

4. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration
 of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include
 all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141. If claims
20 are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected
 species, M.P.E.P. §809.02(a).

5. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably
 distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record
 showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the
25 case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the
 prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)
 of the other invention.

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6. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 C.F.R. §1.143).

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christine K. Oda whose telephone number is (703) 305-3857. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, N. Le, can be reached on (703) 308-0750.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

A Technology Center fax for FILING Technology Center 2800 PAPERS ONLY is available at (703) 308-7722 or (703) 308-7724.

CKO: cko
21 August 2002

Christine K. Oda
Christine K. Oda
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2858